

IN THE CLAIMS:

Set forth below in ascending order, with status identifiers, is a complete listing of all claims currently under examination. Changes to any amended claims are indicated by strikethrough and underlining. This listing also reflects any cancellation and/or addition of claims.

1-24. (canceled)

25. (new) A mobile device, comprising:

a battery;

a battery charger electrically coupled to the battery;

a signal processor;

a single-chip color complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor electrically coupled by a switch to the signal processor in an image capture mode and to the battery charger in a battery charging mode, the CMOS image sensor having an array of pixels organized into columns and rows with each column having a separate column readout circuit and individual pixels associated with an individual column being electrically coupled to a respective column readout circuit; and

a timing/control circuit in the image capture mode directing pixels to be read out sequentially on a row-by-row basis to the signal processor with each row having only one pixel per column that is read out at a single time while in the battery charging mode the timing/control circuit directs multiple pixels in each individual column to simultaneously and continuously provide continuous current to the battery charger;

the switch being coupled to an actuatable switch that a user actuates to capture an image, the mobile device operating in the image capture mode whenever the user actuates the actuatable switch and with the mobile device switching to the battery charging mode when images are not being captured to support continuous charging of the battery whenever an image is not being captured.

26. (new) The mobile device of claim 25 wherein the image sensor comprises an array of pixels and a timing/control circuit for controlling the pixels to selectively provide constant current from the pixels to the battery charger.

27. (new) The mobile device of claim 25 wherein the timing/control circuit directs all of the pixels in each column to simultaneously provide current to the battery charger in the battery charging mode.

28. (new) The mobile device of claim 25 wherein:

the image sensor is configured to capture images; and

the battery powers the image sensor when the image sensor captures images.

29. (new) The mobile device of claim 25, further comprising a housing, wherein the battery, battery charger, and image sensor are contained within the housing.

30. (new) The mobile device of claim 25, further comprising a camera unit including the image sensor.

31. (new) A mobile device, comprising:

a rechargeable battery;

a battery charger electrically coupled to the battery;

a single-chip color complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor for capturing images, the CMOS image sensor having an array of pixels organized into columns and rows with each column having a separate column readout circuit and individual pixels associated with an individual column being electrically coupled to a respective column readout circuit; and

a timing/control circuit in an image capture mode directing pixels to be read out sequentially on a row-by-row basis with each row having only one pixel per column that is read out at a single time while in a battery charging mode the timing/control circuit directs multiple pixels in each individual column to simultaneously and continuously provide continuous current to the battery charger.

32. (new) The mobile device of claim 31 wherein the pixels are arranged in columns, and wherein the timing/control circuit selectively controls the pixels so that all of the pixels in an individual column provide current to the battery charger simultaneously.

33. (new) The mobile device of claim 31, further comprising a signal processor and a switch to (a) direct current from the pixels to the signal processor when the image sensor captures images, and (b) direct current from the pixels to the battery charger when the battery charger charges the battery.

34. (new) The mobile device of claim 31, wherein the mobile device is configured so that the mobile device operates in the image capture mode when a user actuates a switch to capture an image and the mobile device switches to the battery charging mode when images are not being captured.

35. (new) The mobile device of claim 31, wherein the mobile device automatically operates continuously in the battery charging mode except when an image is being captured.

36. (new) A single-chip color complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor, comprising:

an array of pixels organized into columns and rows with each column having a separate column readout circuit and individual pixels associated with an individual column being electrically coupled to a respective column readout circuit;

the CMOS image sensor in an image capture mode directing pixels to be read out sequentially on a row-by-row basis via the column readout circuits with each row having only one pixel per column that is read out at a single time;

the CMOS image sensor in a battery charging mode directing multiple pixels in each individual column to simultaneously and continuously provide continuous current for charging a battery;

the CMOS image sensor configured to switch between the image capture mode and the battery charging mode to support continuously charging the battery whenever images are not being captured.

37. (new) The CMOS image sensor of claim 36, wherein in the battery charging mode all of the pixels in each individual column simultaneously and continuously provide continuous current.

38. (new) The CMOS image sensor of claim 36 wherein a timing/control circuit controls the pixels to selectively provide constant current from the pixels to a battery charger.

39. (new) The CMOS image sensor of claim 36, wherein the image sensor automatically operates continuously in the battery charging mode except when an image is being captured.